



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

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January 12, 2009

Commissioner Diana Jones Ritter
Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
44 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12229-0001

Dear Commissioner Ritter:

This past Friday I attended a statewide labor/management meeting between representatives of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) and the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association, Inc. (NYSCOPBA). At the meeting, your representatives advised NYSCOPBA that according to the Governor's proposed Executive Budget, "OMRDD has reviewed the duties and functions of its Safety and Security Officer staff and has determined that a 20 percent reduction (50 FTEs) can be achieved statewide without adversely impacting individual and staff health and safety. This reduction will not affect agency operations as the functions these staff perform are either redundant or can be carried out by other existing staff." After the State's presentation, we asked where the reductions would take place. Surprisingly, your representatives were unable to provide any specific details whatsoever. They only told us that they will take place on August 31, 2009 and will advise us once they know more details.

NYSCOPBA understands the State's fiscal situation; however, I was surprised that your agency was unable to provide any further details. If your office advised the Governor's office that you can reduce the staff by fifty (50) FTEs, you must know which positions would be eliminated. Only by knowing this can you insure that the health and safety of staff and the consumers you serve will not be adversely impacted.

Please advise me with the specific items and locations where the agency intends to reduce the fifty (50) FTE positions set forth in the Governor's proposed budget.

Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Donn Rowe
NYSCOPBA President

cc: Jerry DeWitt, NYSCOPBA Vice President – Law Enforcement